Review of Interests and Activities in Thermoelectrics

DoE Thermoelectrics Applications Workshop: Jan 3-6, 2011

TECHNOLOGY DRIVEN. WARFIGHTER FOCUSED.

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Report Documentation Page

Form Approved
OMB No. 0704-0188

1. REPORT DATE	2. REPORT TYPE	3. DATES COVERED
JAN 2011		**00-00-2011 to 00-00-2011**

4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE	5a. CONTRACT NUMBER
Review of Interests and Activities in Thermoelectrics	5b. GRANT NUMBER
	5c. PROGRAM ELEMENT NUMBER
6. AUTHOR(S)	5d. PROJECT NUMBER
	5e. TASK NUMBER
	5f. WORK UNIT NUMBER
7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) **Army Research Laboratory,Sensors and Electron Devices Directorate,Adelphi,MD,20783-1197**	8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER
9. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES)	10. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S ACRONYM(S)
	11. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S REPORT NUMBER(S)

12. DISTRIBUTION/AVAILABILITY STATEMENT
Approved for public release; distribution unlimited

13. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES
Presented at the Department of Energy 2011 Thermoelectrics Applications Workshop January 3-6, 2011, San Diego, CA

14. ABSTRACT

15. SUBJECT TERMS

16. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF:			17. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT	18. NUMBER OF PAGES	19a. NAME OF RESPONSIBLE PERSON
a. REPORT **unclassified**	b. ABSTRACT **unclassified**	c. THIS PAGE **unclassified**	**Same as Report (SAR)**	**19**	

OUTLINE

- Army Rationale
- Thermoelectric Power Generation
  - Soldier power
  - UAV power
- Materials Research
  - Bulk
- Thermoelectric Cooling
  - DARPA/MTO: ACM
  - NEA device idea
  - Where would these help?
- Summary

RATIONALE

- 3×10^5 barrels per Day!
- JP-8:
  - Base cost — $3/Gallon
  - "Fully burdened cost" — $42/Gallon
  - Human cost — 1 US casualty per 24 trips

RATIONALE

- 3×10^5 barrels per Day!
- JP-8:
  - Base cost $3/Gallon
  - "Fully burdened cost" $42/Gallon
  - **Human cost** **1 US casualty per 24 trips**

Batteries require **more supply trips**!

POINT: Power-Generation opportunities that ARL is looking at:

1. reduce batteries (soldier power)
2. reduce demand (UAV)

OEF – AFGHANISTAN (72 Hour Mission)

AN/PVS 14 (Night Vision)
(2) AA
.106 lbs/.04 watts*

Mark VII
(1) 3.9 V lithium
.256 lbs/.167 watts*

MBITR
(8) BB 521
6.4 lbs/5.33 watts*

Sure Fire Light
(6) CR-123A
.222 lbs/.219 watts*

Mag Lite
(2) AA
.106 lbs/.019 watts*

DAGR
(24) AA & (1) ½ AA
1.3 lbs/.729 watts*

Head Set
(2) AA
.106 lbs/.019 watts*

PEQ-2A
(2) AA
.106 lbs/.011 Watts*

HTWS (Night)
(12) AA Lithium
384 lbs/.68 watts*

M68 CCO (Day)
(1) DL 1/3N
.007 lbs/.00006 watts*

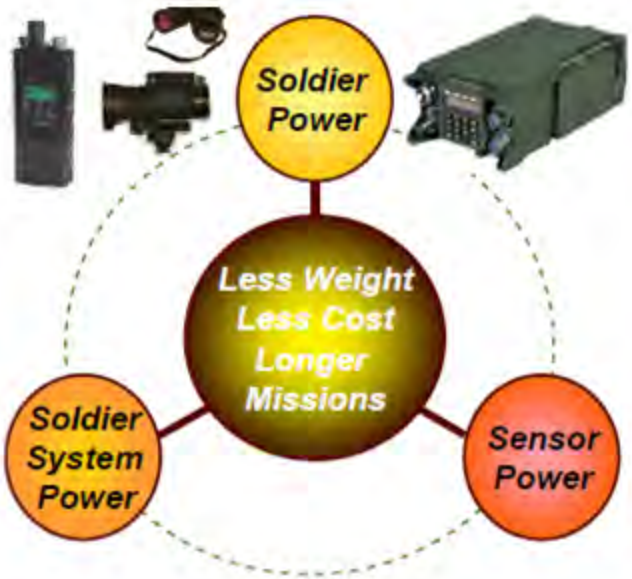
LMR
(8) 3600 mAh NIMH
6.4 lbs/1.51 watts*

P-Beacon
(1) 9V
.1 lbs/.049 watts*

Total: 7 types of batteries, 70 batteries, 16 lbs; 9.17 watts

1. Direct Power Generation

CREDIT: Brian Morgan/Ivan Lee

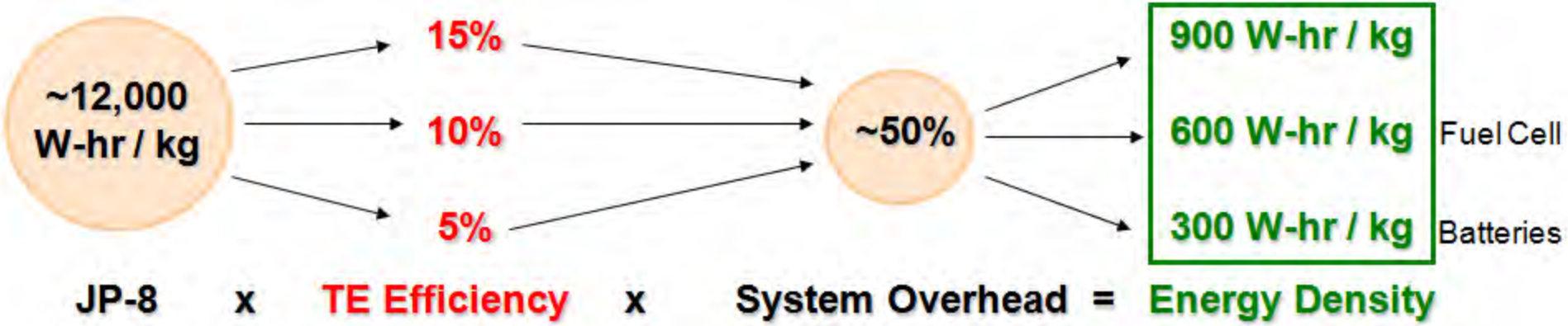


Goal:

- Develop small light weight power sources for the Warfighter that maximize specific energy for Soldier systems and sensors.
- High efficiency thermoelectrics could compete with fuel cells, while likely using logistic fuels

Research Areas:

- Burner development
- TE materials
- TE packaging / interconnects
- Thermal management
- Balance of plant (pumps, valves, etc)



2. UAV: "SHADOW"

Total weight (14.2 kg)
Main payload is imaging pod (intel)
UEL AR 741 Wankel (air-cooled)
-28 kW power, 50 kW max **(* 1:1)**
28 Volt/900-1500 W_e generator (3.5 kg)

Say…only 1/3 goes to heat…

@28 kW, then 10 kW heat

-5% TE	then 500 W_e
-10% TE	then 1000 W_e
-15% TE	then 1500 W_e

@50 kW, then 16 kW heat

-5% TE	then 800 W_e
-10% TE	then 1600 W_e
-15% TE	then 2400 W_e

Opportunity? weight, cost, reliability, performace

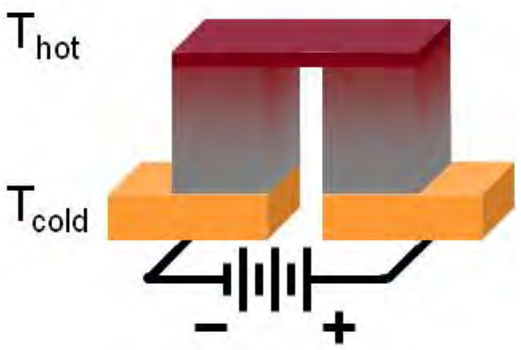
BULK

Materials Research

Basic theory:

- **Efficiency** $\propto$ **f(**$1/\kappa$**)**

…..as $\kappa\downarrow$**…efficiency**$\uparrow$



Credit: N.B. Singh/Team at Northrop Grumman

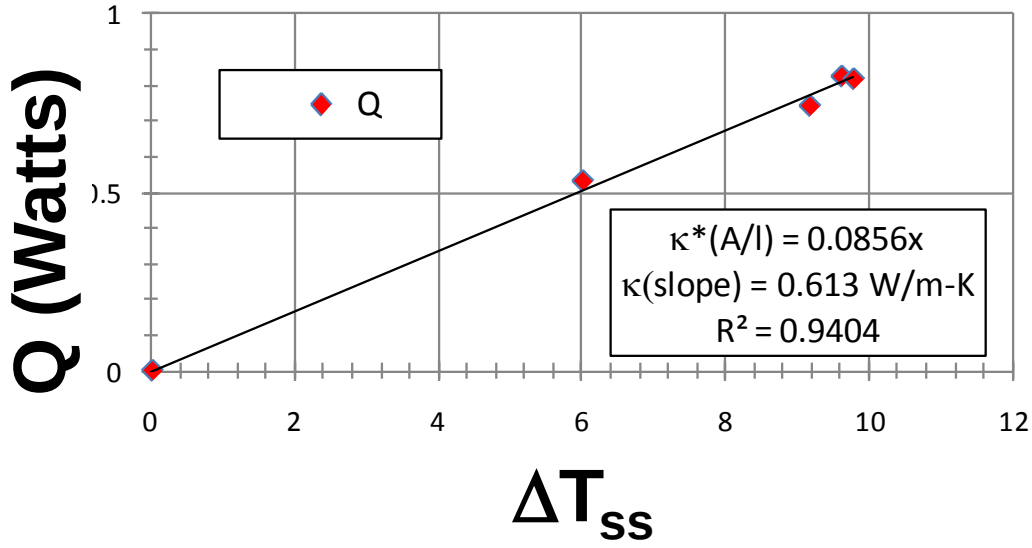
Low κ **bulk (450º C)**

- **(Tl,Bi)Te_2 ~ PbTe**

"Pseudo-PbTe"

J. Jensen, R. Burke, D. Ernst, R. Allgaier, Phys. Rev. B, Vol. 6(2), p. 319 (1972).

$$Q_\kappa = \kappa\left(\frac{A}{\ell}\right)(\Delta T_{ss})$$



- **Room-Temp.** $\kappa \sim 0.6$ W/m-K….3X better than PbTe

TE Cooling

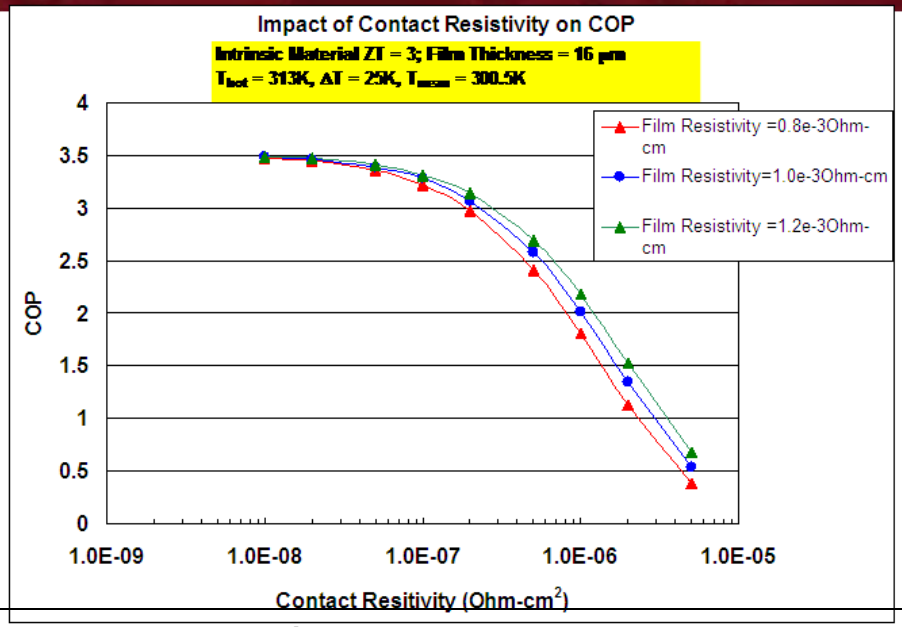
Active Cooling Modules

DARPA/MTO: ACM

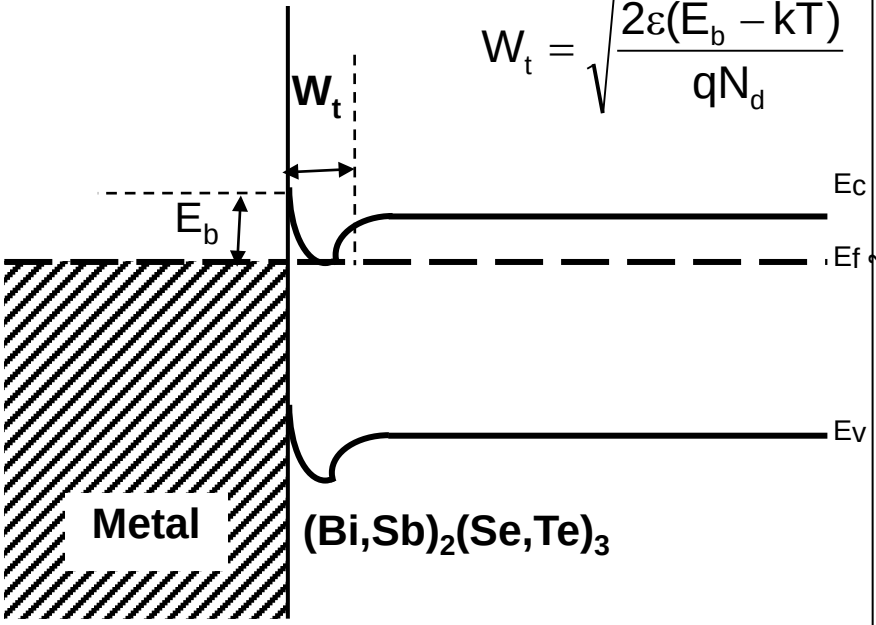
(Kenny → Bar-Cohen

PROG: *Develop high-COP devices*

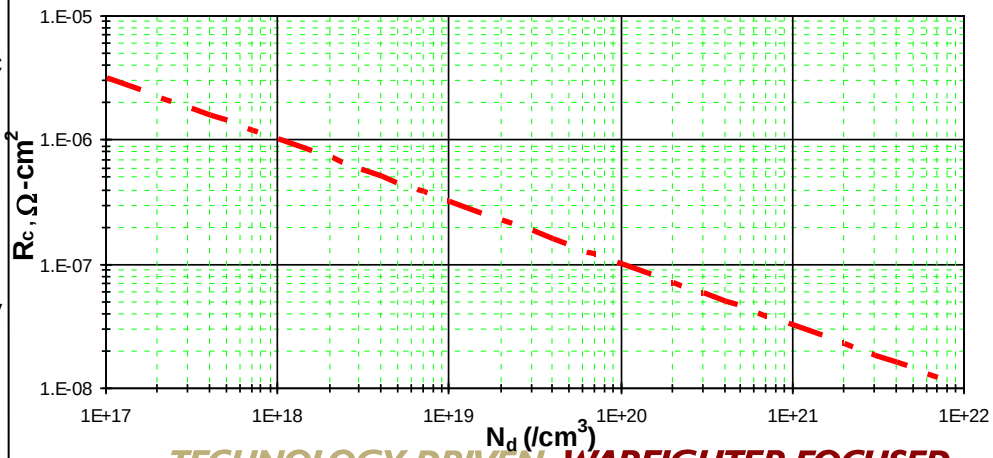
ARL: *Revolutionary Improvement in Contact Resistivity*



$$W_t = \sqrt{\frac{2\varepsilon(E_b - kT)}{qN_d}}$$

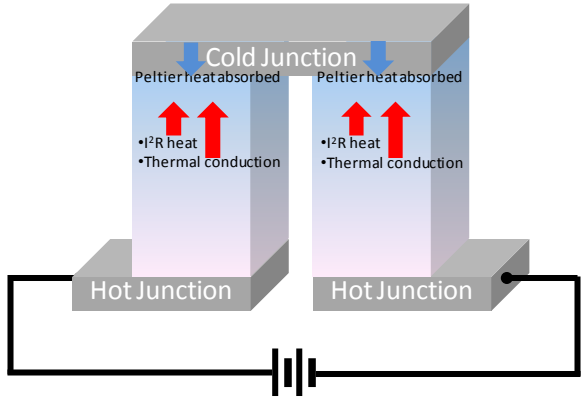


$$W_t \propto R_c \propto \frac{1}{\sqrt{N_d}}$$



Thermoelectric Cooling

Thermodynamics:



$$Q_c = -(\alpha_n+\alpha_p)TI + (\kappa_n+\kappa_p)\Delta T(A/l) + \tfrac{1}{2}I^2(\rho_n+\rho_p)(l/A)$$

$$\Delta T_{max} = \tfrac{1}{2} ZT^2 \qquad Z = \alpha^2/\rho\kappa$$

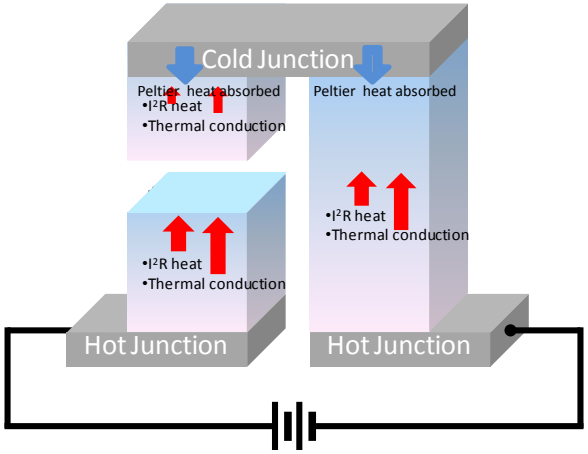
Anything else that can be done?

Thermoelectric Cooling

“What if…. ”

- **we incorporate a gap**

1. **Heat cannot be conducted** 
2. **Current cannot flow** 



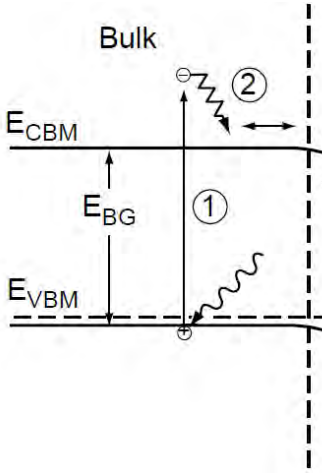
Is there something that we can do to induce the electrical current to cross?

NEA

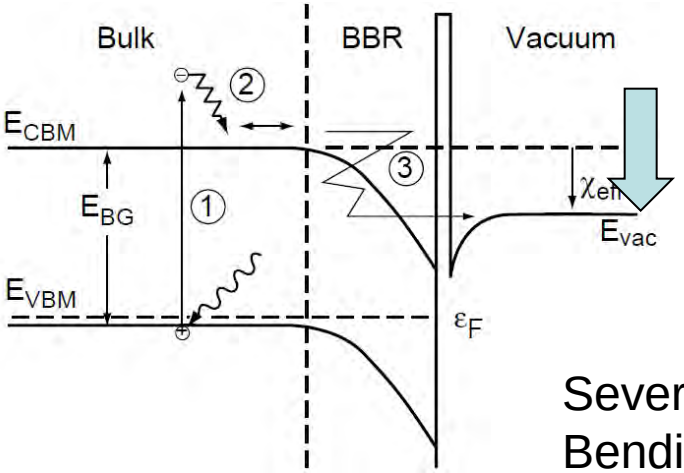
“Negative Electron Affinity”

- Phenomenon in p-GaAs
- Surface treatment → severe band-bending
- e^- source at Stanford Linear Accelerator (SLAC)

Key: Cs metal on GaAs



Surface States, Some Band Bending

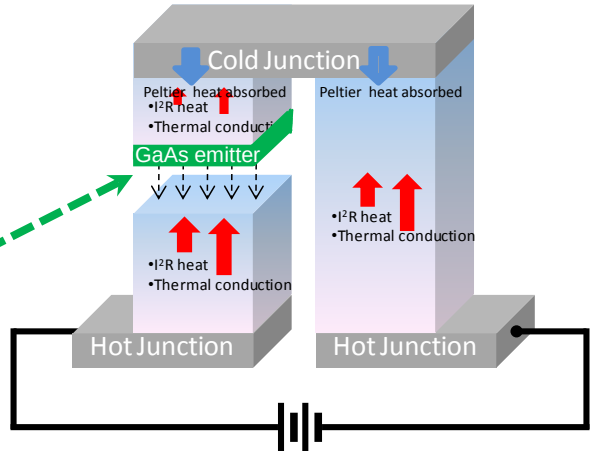


Severe Band Bending

NEA

"Negative Electron Affinity"

- How would this work?
- Incorporate GaAs e^- emitter within gap



GaAs e^- emitter

- **Physics:**

  Child's Law: current density across gap:

  $J = K V_d^{3/2} / d^2$

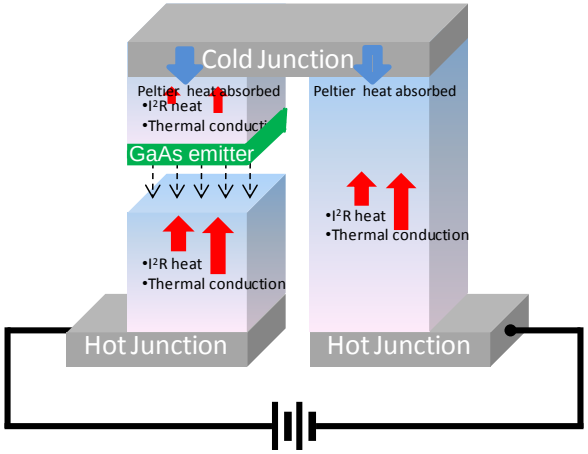
  where
  J = current density
  d = gap spacing
  V_d = Potential across d
  K is a constant = $(4/9)\ \varepsilon_0\ (-2q/m)^{1/2}$

10 V ~ "d" in mm range

NEA

“Negative Electron Affinity”

- Role for thin-film TE in practical devices
- Maybe:
  - $(Bi,Sb)_2(Se,Te)_3$/GaAs NEA Cooler
  - PbTe/GaAs NEA Power



At this stage:

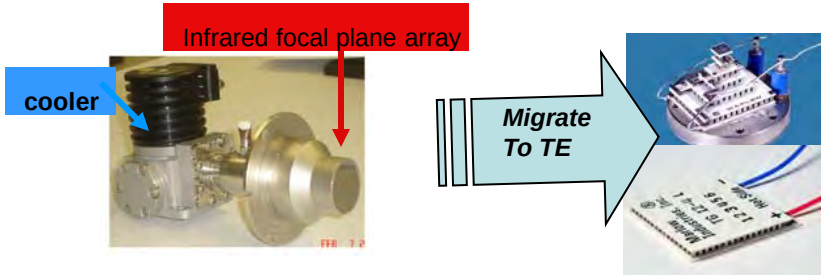
Form Analysis

Risk is OK

Thermoelectric Cooling

Unmanned Assets (UAV/UGV):

- High-performance IR would be nice
- High-performance IR needs coolers
- SADA is…



Attribute	TE 6-stage	SADA (Stir.)
Volume	7 cm^3	986 cm^3
Weight	100 g	2500 g
Cost	$800	$10,000
ΔT_{max}	133 K	235 K
Input Power	22.7 Watts	20 W (60 W_{max})
Heat Load	0.58 Watts	1.5 Watts
MTTF	unlimited	~ 10,000 Hrs.

Funding:

ACM

MDA:

Army I^2WD: Passive infrared threat warning

Collaboration:

RTI
Brimrose
Northrop-Grumman

Summary

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